California Climate Adaptation Strategy

CAT Public Health Work Group September, 2009

Today's Goals

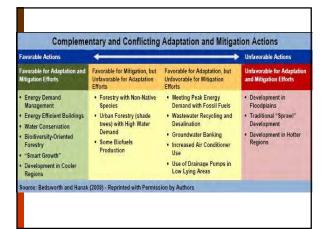
- Overview of CAS and PH chapter
- Your comments
- Next steps

What is adaptation?

- Efforts to respond to the impacts of climate change
- Adjustments in natural or human systems to actual or expected climate changes
- Goals
 - minimize harm
 - take advantage of beneficial opportunities.

Mitigation and adaptation

- Mitigation: slow & reduce magnitude of climate change (reduce GHG emissions)
- Without mitigation, adaptation capacity will be overwhelmed
- **■** BOTH ARE NECESSARY



Adaptation approaches

- □ Hazards based
 - Identify amount and nature of projected climate changes
 - Assess consequences for specific sectors & environments
- Vulnerability based
 - Assess natural or human system's ability to cope with and adapt to change
 - Focus on socioeconomic and ecological factors that influence vulnerability, ability to adapt
- BOTH ARE NECESSARY

Critical factors in adaptation

- □ Baseline & projected resources
 - economic, technologies, infrastructure, institutional support, access to information
- □ Public awareness & engagement
- Effective governance
- Sustainably-managed natural resources
- □ Equity in access to resources

Public Health Chapter

- Climate change impacts on health
 - Heat, air quality, extreme weather events, drought, wildfires, sea level rise, infectious disease, vector/water/food-borne diseases
- Promote community resilience
 - Working group to promote PH considerations in land use/transportation
 - Food security and quality: work with NGOs to promote access to healthy foods
 - Health care access
 - Reduce heat islands

Public Health Chapter (2)

- □ Educate, empower, engage
 - Educational outreach and materials
 - Education re: risk reduction
 - Education re: mitigation & adaptation
 - Occupational safety standards (heat)
 - Training of health professionals
 - Integration of mental health services in disaster response

Public Health Chapter (3)

- Promote mitigation & adaptation strategies with public health co-benefits
 - Identify strategies with co-benefits
 - Health Impact Assessments

Public Health Chapter (4)

- Robust, rapid surveillance
 - Environmental conditions, climate-related illness, vulnerabilities, protective factors, adaptive capacities
 - Implement CSTE indicator set
 - Bio-monitoring
 - Detailed vulnerability assessment
 - Electronic surveillance systems
 - Health information systems (Rapid Response Registry)
 - Water accessibility information
 - Infectious disease monitoring
 - Electronic surveillance systems
 - Emergency monitoring
 - Health information exchange

Public Health Chapter (5)

- □ Improve PH preparedness, emergency response
 - PH advisories re climate-related events
 - Refine PH preparedness plans
- □ Partnership and collaboration
- Research
- Implement policy changes
 - Health in All Policies
- □ Funding for implementation of PH CAS
- □ Lead by example